

PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL DISORDERS IN DOWN SYNDROME

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Persons with Intellectual Disabilities present with a high risk for developing psychopathologies. Namely, those who have Down syndrome, during their lifespan, might experience several problems that can further progress in psychopathological disorders.

Among those disorders, the most frequent is depression, so far largely discussed and documented. Data on the prevalence of Pervasive Developmental Disorders in Down syndrome are still little clear and not well defined; differences in Pervasive Developmental Disorders prevalence rates found in a few studies highlight the complexity of diagnosis as well as the uncertain association of autism with such a syndrome.

This paper analyses the prevalence of psychopathologies in a sample of 281 persons with Down syndrome and intellectual disabilities. The most frequently diagnosed psychopathological disorders fall within the mood, relationship and behaviours domains.

Keywords: Down syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Psychopathology

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